

Preliminary Amendment

Divisional Application of U.S. Application No. 09/660,522

hereinafter, where the HGF gene is introduced into the heart in in vivo animal tests using rats, angiogenesis is observed. Therefore, the HGF gene is effective for the treatment and prevention of arterial disorders, in particular, various diseases caused by a disturbance which mainly involves abnormal proliferation of vascular smooth muscle cells (e.g., restenosis after percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), arteriosclerosis, insufficiency of peripheral circulation, etc.), and for the treatment and prevention of diseases such as myocardial infarction, ~~myocardial~~cardiomyopathy, peripheral angiostenosis, cardiac insufficiency, etc. HGF itself is also useful for the treatment and prevention of the diseases as described above, since HGF promotes the proliferation of vascular endothelial cells but does not promote the growth of vascular smooth muscle cells. The pharmacological effects of the HGF gene are attributed to those of HGF itself.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

7. (New) A method for treating insufficiency of peripheral circulation or peripheral angiostenosis in a subject for which HGF is effective, comprising administering intramuscularly to the subject an expression vector containing a HGF gene in a therapeutically effective amount.
8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said expression vector is selected from a viral expression vector containing a HGF gene and a non-viral expression vector containing a HGF gene.

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9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said non-viral expression vector is encapsulated in a liposome, the membrane of which may be further fused to attenuated Sendai virus particles.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A medicament comprising a HGF gene.
2. A liposome containing a HGF gene.
3. A liposome according to claim 2, which is a
5 membrane fusion liposome fused to Sendai virus.
4. A medicament comprising a liposome according
to claim 2 or 3.
5. A medicament according to claim 1 or 4, which
is for use in the treatment for arterial diseases.
- 10 6. A medicament according to claim 1 or 4, which
is for use in the treatment for cartilage injury.